

# Commissioners in action

*Tribune 4-1-11*

by MARIAN  
MCMAHON

**LAKE COUNTY** - Lake County Commissioners Bob Aufuldish, Dan Troy and Ray Sines meet at 10 a.m. most Thursdays, with some meetings at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, in the Commissioners' Chambers on the fourth floor of the Lake County Administration Building, 105 Main St., Painesville.

All meetings are open to the public. Requests to address the government board may be made at any board meeting or presented to the Commissioners' Office by calling Amy Elaszcz at (440) 350-2753.

There were meetings March 24 and 31. The next meetings will be Thursday, April 7 at 10 a.m. and Tuesday, April 12 at 2 p.m.

At the March 22 meeting, the following legislation was adopted:

## **RESOLUTIONS: JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

- Resolution approving Lake County Department of Job and Family Services vouchers date of warrant March 28 in the amount of \$584,540.49.

- Resolution approving a memorandum of understanding between the Lake County Board of Commissioners, Lake County Workforce Investment Board, and One-Stop System Partners for participation in the Lake County One-Stop Service Delivery System under the Workforce Investment Act for the period July 1 through June 30, 2013, and authorizing the president of the board to execute said memorandum of understanding.

"I'd like to ask Mr. (Matt) Battiato (director of Lake County Job and Family Services), is this resolution just in case Congress continues funding after July 1st," Commissioner Dan Troy said.

Battiato said they were expecting to have funding after Congress finishes with the continuing resolution vote.

"We're assuming there's going to be funding available; we just don't know how much," Battiato said.

## **COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE**

- Resolution authorizing execution of a professional

consulting services agreement between Denk Associates, Inc. and the Lake County Board of Commissioners in an amount not to exceed \$10,500.

## **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

- Resolution proclaiming April 2011 child abuse prevention month in Lake County.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Battiato said they are expecting at least a 10 percent cut in programs, with more from child support which he considers counterproductive.

"If people are paying their child support, those persons that are receiving child support, are less likely to have to rely on public assistance programs," he said.

Some of the cuts will be made up be assessments to the county, Troy said.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Troy gave an overview of items discussed at the County Commissioners Association of Ohio meeting.

There was discussion of Senate Bill 5 concerning collective bargaining.

"The bill presently requires that all employees must pay a minimum of 15 percent of health care costs and my question was, 'Is that if it's part of a bargaining contract or is that in general because we do not have health care costs in our bargaining contracts,'" Troy said.

No one was sure of the answer.

The Local Government Fund was another topic of discussion with cuts of 20 to 25 percent the first year of the state budget and 36 to 50 percent the second year. It is believed that fund will be eliminated in the next budget in 2013.

CCAO members were voicing the opinion that there needed to be a permanent replacement for the personal property tax rather than the descending Commercial Activity Tax (CAT).

The question was raised as to what tools the legislature was going to give the counties to assist them in their finances such as the flexibility to consolidate statutory offices. The response was that the collective bargaining bill would save a billion dollars.

The problem is, the way Lake County is set up, SB 5 would not affect the county contracts, and therefore won't save it money. In the pension side, the PERS contribution for the county would drop 2 percent which the employees would need to pick up.

Something else which is supposed to help is a State-wide Public Notice website which would allow counties to post public notices there and save some money on advertising. However, he said, they were told basically that they would still need to advertise, but not as much.

"Another concern is Soil and Water (Conservation District; the state General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriation was removed in its entirety," Troy said.

The county gets reimbursed up to a point for funding Soil and Water, but the solid waste line items which provide matching funds will be decreased about 40 percent.

"There's some feeling that this is an attempt by the policy-makers to kind of force more consolidations," Troy said. "I'm not opposed to that but I think you need to kind of focus; don't just cut across the board and say, 'OK, now you guys engage in hand-to-hand civil war on the local level determining who the survivors are.'"

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

"I'm disappointed to see that everybody voted yes on resolution number two (concerning the Lake County One-Stop)," said Becky Lynch of Mentor. "It's very difficult to cut what's been being spent all along, but it's a prime opportunity... this is only one component being cut."

Commissioner Bob Aufuldish asked if she understood Lake 1Stop helped people find employment.

"If they don't do that, then what happens?" he said.

She said when her husband was faced with taking a pay cut or losing his job, he took the cut and they adjusted their household budget.

"We have to cut. Everybody has to cut, and it's painful," Lynch said. "This was a prime opportunity for you guys to say, 'No.'"

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Commissioner Ray Sines said he did not believe eliminating programs to help people find employment was the way to go. While many people were for cuts, when the cuts affected them personally they felt differently.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss real estate matters. *At the March 24 meeting,*

*the following legislation was adopted:*

#### RESOLUTIONS: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving change order Nos. 1 and 2 with Dial Electric Ltd. for baler building electrical renovation for the Lake County Department of Utilities, increasing the total contract

amount by \$7,202.

- Resolution certifying unpaid sewer and water sums to the Lake County Auditor.

- Resolution accepting the retirement resignation of David E. Bradshaw from his position of director of solid waste operations, lake county department of utilities, effective March 30.

#### COMMISSIONERS'

#### OFFICE

- Resolution authorizing execution of a contract between Pictometry International Corp. and the Lake County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Lake County GIS Department for Aerial Imagery for Lake County.

"What we're trying to do here is update our aerial imagery which is four years out of date, to make sure we are maximizing on the return of the investment which we have made to date," said GIS director Dick Kotapish.

He said he has been contacting the Lake County communities for financial assistance and so far has received promises from: Willoughby, Mentor Kirtland, Painesville, Painesville Township, North Perry and Madison Township.

A copy of a letter from the Lake County Fire Chiefs Association stated, "Fire departments use this information and pictometry for pre-planning buildings and facilities along with emergency preparedness planning. This information is especially useful at night when visibility is limited to determine facility layouts and access routes for a particular emergency."

This project is piggybacking onto an Ohio effort to do the entire state at reduced costs.

The total cost would be \$101,964 which could be paid in three payments of \$33,988 over three years.

Commissioner Dan Troy said the county's budget does not allow any funds to come from the general fund. They would need to be charged to several different departments, so whatever the communities can contribute

would be helpful.

Kotapish said the information was also used by law enforcement and in particular SWAT to aid in knowing the configurations of backyards and structures.

Commissioner Ray Sines asked what the difference was between the information from this project and what was available on the website.

Kotapish said that information was out of date and of a much lower resolution so safety forces would not be able to determine the details they need. It would also allow planning from an office rather than having to have someone drive around.

The resolution passed 2-1 with Sines casting the dissenting vote.

#### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving payment of bills as listed on the commissioners' approval journal in the amount of \$829,969.01.

- Resolution approving purchase orders as listed on the commissioners' purchase order approval journal in the amount of \$418,823.06.

- Resolution increasing appropriations for a non general fund account.

- Resolution transferring cash and appropriations within various general and non general fund accounts.

- Resolution approving the 2011 final appropriation measure for the general fund.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A Bowhall Road, Painesville Township resident came before the commissioners for the second time in as many weeks concerning flooding and sewage problems in the area. He said when there were heavy rains, sewage came bubbling up

from the sanitary sewer manhole and traveling to people's back yards.

Four pumper trucks came out from the county utilities department to deal with the problem.

He commented that the pipe from Cedar Glen and Bannerstone is a larger pipe than the one it enters on Bowhall.

Troy asked Utilities Director Rick Martin what the problem could be.

"It's called a sanitary sewer overflow which is a surcharging caused by the excessive amount of water that's coming in," Martin said. "As these four-inch laterals from each parcel add additional flow they're causing surcharging in the system and that's what we're going to try to be looking at."

When questioned about the capacity of the lift station there, he said they wanted to fix the problem, which was storm water getting into the sanitary system.

"Some of the issues that occur are there's a tremendous amount of what we call rags - toilet paper or hygiene wipes that are coming in from the system and clog up the pumps," Martin said. "This last storm event, with both pumps going at Deerfield full, they still pulled out about a five-gallon bucket full of rags and we hate to shut that down during these events, but that's the kind of stuff that gets pulled into these pumps."

The pump station was designed for about 750 homes and there are less than 500 being served.

Martin said two quick fixes would be to get downspouts and sump pumps disconnected from the sanitary system.

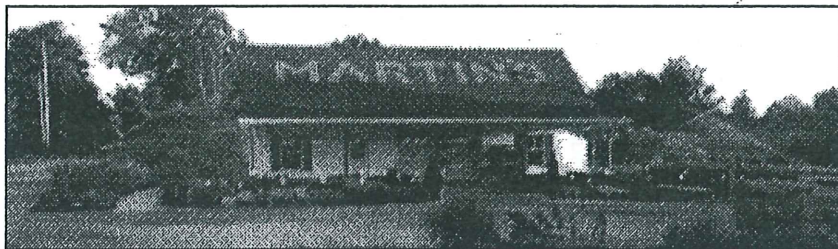
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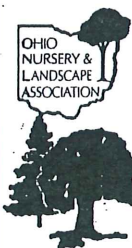
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